
THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1994 – 99

SENATE

Wednesday, 13th December, 1995

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings on Wednesday, 13th December, 1995 at 11.15 a.m.

PRESENT

His Honour Senator C. L. BOLDEN, (Deputy President)

Senator the Honourable R. R. FARLEY, (Minister of Industry, Commerce and Business Development) (Leader of the Senate)

Senator Miss C. Y. FORDE, (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Culture)

Senator T. E. BARKER (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs)

Senator Miss O. P. SYMMONDS, G.C.M.

Senator Miss J. C. ODLE

Senator N. A. LYNCH

Senator N. P. WELCH

Senator J. A. WORKMAN

Senator Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON

Senator C. K. LAURIE

Senator Mrs. V. J. DAVIS

Senator C. A. MASCOLL

Prayers were led by Rev. Errington Massiah.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Senate is in session.

PAPERS

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy President, I am commanded to lay the following documents before the Senate:

1. The Education (Amendment) Regulations, 1995.
2. The Annual Report of the Barbados Investment and Development Corporation for the year 1993.
3. Report on the Operations of the Severance Payments Scheme for the period 1st January to 31st December, 1994.
4. Report of the Accountant General for the Financial Year 1994-95; and
5. Annual Report of the National Housing Corporation for the Financial Year 1993-94.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy President, I rise to introduce a Bill to amend the Education Act, Cap. 41 and move that it be now read a first time.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 1 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT
BAYWOODS, APES HILL, ST. JAMES

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy President, approval of the Senate is being sought for an acquisition in accordance with section 5 of the Land Acquisition Act. The property in question, Sir, is some 4.43 hectares of land at Baywoods, Apes Hill, St. James

and this land is being acquired for the purpose of housing development. The land in question, Sir, 4.43 hectares, as you know is approximately 8 acres and is adjacent to existing housing developments and provides basically, Sir, for a number of opportunities for housing for Barbadians.

The National Housing Corporation proposes to install the usual services, electricity, water and the like within the area and have the property available for use as soon as possible. The Senate's approval therefore, Sir, is being sought for this acquisition by Government so that it may have indefeasible title to the land for the purposes of housing development. I beg to move, Sir, that this Resolution do now pass.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Mr. Deputy President, this land at Baywoods is actually active agricultural land. at the moment and one wonders why Government would go to acquire land that is actually in use for agriculture when there is rab land in the area. Certainly across the gully at Plumtree there is land that has been lying there idle for a very long time. It is land with very shallow soil, very suitable for housing and I would prefer to see that land used before we go to use this particular land at Baywoods. The 9 acres being acquired is also, as far as I can understand, in a relatively low lying area near to an existing dairy and even though it is to the South of the dairy it does mean that if wind comes from the North we will be getting complaints from the residents in that area that they are getting the smells that are normally associated with trying to run a dairy. I would hope that Government, in looking for land to acquire, would consult with the agricultural fraternity before taking land out of agriculture.

Normally these things come from Town and Country Planning. If it was somebody else, if it was a private person trying to buy this agricultural land, it would go to Town and Country Planning who would normally submit it to the Ministry of Agriculture who would in turn submit it to the Barbados Agricultural Society who would give their opinion as to whether this land should be lost to agriculture or not.

I presume that in a case where the Government is acquiring the land they do not have to go through these motions which is a pity because it would be more transparent, which I think is the term used, if Government were to consult on these acquisitions.

We know that we have to have this gradual removal of land but there are areas, for instance, to the West of Highway 2A where we realise that anything is going to inevitably end up in housing. We think that anything to the South of the ABC Highway and to the West of the ABC Highway where it bends into Warrens, all of that land we see will end up in housing in the next century. However, if

that is a clear indication of where we are going then why are we trying to go into the country areas and pick out agricultural land when there is existing land that cannot be used for agriculture and has never been used for agriculture in the same area.

I hope that Government would look at this policy and be a little more open with it. I thank you.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. Deputy President, I need to ask a few questions about this land acquisition. I would really love to know whether or not Government has already started to use a different methodology for acquiring land in Barbados. By that I am aware that Government has committed itself to allowing market forces to determine where land will go in terms of its use. It is true to say that in light of the Iglesias letter which was recently submitted to the IDB there was agreement in principle that the discretionary powers of the Minister would be reduced and that the market forces will determine to a large extent how land is allocated in Barbados. I am asking whether or not this decision and the other decisions are being taken in light of the fact that there is this pending agreement with the IDB as regards land use policy in Barbados. What is very unfortunate about this whole episode is that today no one is aware of the conditionalities which the Government has entered into in relation to the acquiring of loans from the IDB.

11.25 a.m.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator, I beg to draw your attention to what is before the Senate today. We are debating the compulsory acquisition of land at Baywoods, Apes Hill, St. James. I will not tolerate anyone moving into any areas other than those before the Senate. If you want to debate conditionalities of a loan, it is within your rights to table such a Resolution when you will be at liberty to discuss that, but I will not allow it to come into this.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I expect this Session to be serious.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I am very serious about what I have said.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I know you are serious and I intend to be serious as well.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I will ask you to respect what I have said and respect what is before the Chamber.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: It may be unfortunate, but this is a land acquisition we are debating and I am asking what policy is Government using to determine the acquisition of this land at Apes Hill.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator, I will not get into any argument with any Senator. When I rule, I rule and I mean that. I will not get into any arguments; I am dealing with what is before the Chamber. If you want to go on an excursion about the Government's letter to somebody, as I have said already, you have the right to do it but under the rules of the Senate.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I am asking what is Government's position in relation to the methodology that is being used to determine land acquisition at Apes Hill and I cannot be outside the scope of the debate.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I will not argue with you and if you persist in this way I will deal with you as you should be dealt with. I am not going to argue with you.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: It is unfortunate that I could be questioned in relation to introducing the discussion about Government's spending policy on land use in this country. This is a land acquisition debate and I am saying that some method has to be used to determine whether or not land is acquired by way of economic factors or is acquired by the discretionary power of the Minister, and to be told I cannot discuss this in light of this Resolution is serious.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I will not have you distorting what I have said either. I mean it.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I end my discussion.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. Deputy President, I rise to make a few comments regarding the Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Baywoods, Apes Hill, St. James for housing development.

I would like to ask a few questions, if in fact this is indeed agricultural land presently being used for agriculture, and if this is so I think that consideration needs to be given regarding the acquisition of land already being used for agriculture. We are a developing country and we know that we need to promote the development of agriculture in order to feed the population and to reduce our import bill for agricultural products. We are also a tourist country and we need to have the maximum production of agricultural crops to feed not only the residents but our visitors to this country, if not, the food bill will get out of control. If in fact this land is presently being used for agriculture, I urge the Government to take another look at it and see if they cannot find rab land to acquire for housing development and promote the development of agriculture in this country to the maximum use.

I thank you, Mr. Deputy President.

The question that the Resolution do now pass was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 2 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
SALE TO ORVILLE CUMBERBATCH OF LAND
AT BOSCOBELLE, ST. PETER

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy President, approval of the Senate is being sought for the disposal of the property which consists of a disused public convenience standing of some 229.8 square metres of land. Approval is being sought under Section 5 of the Crown Lands (Vesting and Disposal) Act.

The property in question is at Boscobelle in St. Peter. As you would recall, over the years a number of public conveniences have become unnecessary because of the availability of waterborne systems in virtually all houses in Barbados. The majority of these public conveniences which have become disused and unnecessary are in the country areas. There is of course still a major need which is yet to be properly satisfied for public conveniences within the City area and other public areas, particularly in relation to parks and other recreational areas. This is certainly something that will have to be done. But in the meantime, Sir, the community baths, as they basically were, have become unnecessary and in many cases have become either dysfunctional and those that were closed and secured have become havens for undesirable activity.

As far back as 1988 a decision was made by the Government of the day to dispose of a number of these conveniences and advertisements were placed in the newspapers inviting persons to make offers. The kind of criteria that were designed to be used in considering these offers related to consideration being given to persons who were the owners of the property before acquisition, to persons with property adjacent to the convenience, to the quantum of the offer which has been made and to the proposed use to which the property would be put.
11.35 a.m.

In the case of the convenience at Boscobelle, in St. Peter, the person in question, a Mr. Cumberbatch, had made the highest offer of the 3 persons who submitted offers for the purchase of the property. The Senate is, therefore, being invited to approve the disposal of this property by way of sale to Orville Cumberbatch for the sum of \$12 000.

I beg to move, Sir, that this Resolution do now pass.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. Deputy President, at the outset, I would like to say that I am

supporting this Resolution; but I would also like to make a few comments about the general sale of public conveniences.

The Senator who just spoke did say that they were advertised in the newspaper and that it is recognised that there is a need for some public conveniences in the City. What I would like to be considered also is the potential need to have other public conveniences out of the City, if the policy of the Barbados Water Authority is to disconnect the water from persons' homes so that they would no longer have access to waterborne conveniences in their homes.

I would just like them to do that on a one-to-one basis. If persons cannot afford to pay their water bill, some provision should be made to assist them, because, Mr. Deputy President, as you know, infectious diseases and waterborne diseases have been drastically reduced by installing waterborne conveniences in the homes of many persons in the population. We would like this to continue.

I would also like to see an education programme teaching us how to conserve water. I must accept that attempts are being made in the newspapers to teach the public to conserve water, but, Mr. Deputy President, we really do not have a reading public. Those little messages tend not to have a very lasting effect. It is better if we start the children from pre-school to use a basin to wash their little cups and saucers and let the children teach the parents and other members of the household to use a basin and conserve water.

I hope that it will not reach the stage where we will have to re-install public conveniences because of the lack of those in homes due to the inability to pay the bills. However, as I said on the outset, I do support this present Resolution. Thank you.

The question was put and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 3 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE LEASE OF LAND TO CO-OPERATIVE HIGH SCHOOL MANAGEMENT INC.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy President, the approval of the Senate is being sought for the lease of land to Co-operative High School Management Inc. The property in question known as Grand View, Government Hill, has been occupied by the Co-operative High School from around the period 1977 and what is proposed is an extension of the current lease for a further 15 years with an option to renew, the terms and conditions being the usual ones associated with such a lease. The rent to be attached to the lease will be \$1 200 per annum and as is usual in these lease arrangements the lessee will be

responsible for repair and maintenance of the premises, in this case, in accordance with the Ministry of Education's regulations with respect to educational institutions. The lessee would be, of course, responsible for the payment of land tax and other outgoings arising out of the use of the premises and the size of the property in question is somewhere in the region of 6.703 square metres of land with the buildings thereon.

This Resolution, as I said, is an extension of an existing arrangement between the management of the school and the Government in terms of the provision of facilities and I would therefore like to move that this Resolution do now pass.

SENATOR Mrs. V. J. DAVIS: Mr. Deputy President, I rise to speak on this Resolution to approve the lease to Co-operative High School Management Incorporated of the land at Government Hill. I wish to salute all those brave people in the past and those who are still trying to run private secondary schools for the well-being of a lot of our students who have fallen through the cracks. I also wish to concur with something Mr. Louis Tull said in terms of the need of our Government to pay for and to acknowledge the right of all children to an education.

We find that so many times the owners of private schools operate under such severe shortages of funds and money. Again we see that they have to pay \$1 200 per annum. This reminds me very much of the lease for students with learning disabilities and I keep wondering. We do have an educational system that we are very proud about and sometimes I wonder whether what we are so proud about is not the shadow of the system rather than the substance. Why is it that the neediest of our children, the socially and economically deprived, the slow learners, the children with learning disabilities are called upon to make such great sacrifices? I find it difficult to understand that people who are trying to help have to work under such stringent circumstances. The students who have to pay cannot pay on time and they have just to struggle along month by month and day by day. I feel this is such a terrible irony that the most deprived, those with the greatest disabilities have to do this whereas it is every single child's right in this country to have an education.

11.45 a.m.

I could not talk about education today in this Honourable Chamber without taking time out to honour 2 of our great educators who have just passed on, and I wish to refer to Bruce St. John and Flora Jordan. These have been stalwarts. These teachers have been nation builders. These teachers have been people who have inspired us and all our children. When we talk about education in this country, I hope we will always remember people like these. One of the hallmarks, and what they have epitomized, is the best of educators, people who, because of

their humanity, because of their ability to understand that that human person, the student, is at the centre of our educational system and allows and gives the students respect they deserve, people who are conscious of the fact that 90 per cent of what passes as education in classrooms, has almost no relevance to our lives when we leave the classroom. But at least what remains is always that sense of someone who was prepared to respect that human being and to use imagination in the pursuit of teaching.

As I talk about imagination in education, I must confess that even with the best intentions we seem to be depriving our youth of an education in the imagination, and this is precisely where the hallmark of the best teachers comes out because they have imagination enough to understand that what will remain will be the sense that they cared about human beings. They cared enough so that they prepared their work well. They cared enough that they continued to monitor the learning and ambitions of their students. They cared enough never, and I hope this would be a reminder to all teachers, to abuse our young people verbally. It is because these educators, I think, were men and women of imagination.

Sometimes I think what is passing as education is really so soul destroying. It is because we are not nurturing the imagination of our students that I think all of us are the poorer for it. We live such literal lives. When I read the letters to the Editor, and when I hear people on the call-in programmes, I think what a pity it is that we have not nurtured people's imagination because everything is so literal. People do not understand, it seems, that there is more to us than the IMF, the IDB and how much in funds they give us, and whether we are worth what we are paid. I think this is where the whole question of educating our students and educating them for the imaginative life is very important, so that even when we have private schools, and even when we want to help with those students, we have to remember that education is much wider than the 3 Rs and all that. I like to think of education of the imagination as really nurturing what is humane in our society. I sometimes think, as John Keats said: "I am certain of nothing but the holiness of the heart's affections and the truth of the imagination".

Why I am talking about the imagination here is because I am lamenting the fact that we are not doing enough in our schools in terms of our culture. We are not promoting enough the good work that is being done by our artists. I am going specifically to deal with the question that how many of us in here have seen Kamau Brathwaite's "Barbadian Poems", or how many of us have seen the CARIFESTA productions? How many of us have seen the wonderful work of one of our outstanding producers, Cicely Spencer-Cross, in her portrayal of that work? If we

ourselves are not interested in the life of culture, and in what I like to think of as the souls of our people, we are going to remain with people who are filled with self-contempt, self-hatred and the lack of confidence.

I am going to say in this Senate today, and I hope it is going to be taken seriously, that all our school children should see "Barabajan" and the work that was put on by CARIFESTA in Trinidad. I know there were very poor attendances at this show. If we are talking about education, we have to see that our children understand what our culture is about. We have to see that our children understand that the soul of this nation is in the hands of our artists.

If I am going to call names, by the way, let me also say I must thank whoever it was who had the vision to give an award to Nicholas Brancker. We do not understand who we are unless we listen to what our artists are saying. Our children will not understand who they are unless they are exposed to what our artists are doing.

I also wonder, why is it that CBC does not find it necessary to film that whole production of "Barabajan"? They can sell those tapes. They can put them into schools. Why is it we are depriving our young people of what it really is that makes people human beings? Why is it we are going to say we never have the money to do these things, and we have the money to do all the other things we seem to be doing?

I am saying in this House today that our whole notion of education has to be opened up to what is happening in the field of art and culture, and it does not matter how much money we spend on education, it does not matter how many schools we open up, if we are not going to expose our children to the culture of this country, to what the artists are doing, we are going to be pursuing a course that will lead to violence, aggression and unimaginative lives. Anybody who is really nurtured in imagination could not hurt each other the way we do verbally, not to mention the other kinds of violence.

While I support the passing of this Resolution, I hope that other people who are helping children to become at least more worthy citizens would get a fairer deal from our Government; that they would not always have to put their hands in their pockets to pay their land tax and so on, but that those children will get as free an education as those who are sitting out there in any of the State schools we have in Barbados. With all the goodwill in the world, we have no serious vision of what our children are going to be if we do not embrace what our artists are doing, and if we do not expose our children to this.

Because I feel we must honour our artists, we must honour Kamau Brathwaite and I am going to end today by quoting from his Barbadian Poems:

"Culture is what the poet comes from and returns to over and over and over and over again and in the end. It is his home, it is his drum, it is his dream: the shared collective conscious (and unconscious) experience of a people with submerged under-drones – ghosts, spirits, sky-juices, ancestors, immemorial memories..."

That is the vision of Kamau Brathwaite. That is the vision we have to pursue when we talk about educating our children. If anything I say can help to change the limitations which are put on education in this country, I would consider this worthwhile.

Now, I am going to pursue the idea that Kamau Brathwaite's work must be made more popular in our schools, that CBC must film Barbadian poems. School children must see the productions put on by Cicely Spencer-Cross. These things must be sold. People talk about tourism and all these things.

11.55 a.m.

Look at what a valuable product we have. We seem to discard it and throw it around. Our children do not get the benefit of these things. It is alarming that I do not see many Parliamentarians at these shows. What does that say? What kind of role models are they for our children? They are too busy. Busy doing what? You see, it is because they live this literal life. If they had more imagination, they would find time for things like these.

Mr. Deputy President, I have great pleasure in giving my approval to this resolution and hope that we will tend to do more in terms of exposing our children to the culture of this country.

Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Symmonds.

SENATOR Miss O. P. SYMMONDS: Thank you, Mr. Deputy President. First of all, I should like to associate myself with the remarks about Mrs. Flora Jordan and Mr. Bruce St. John, both of whom I knew very well and admired greatly for their contribution to the teaching service.

There was a time when governments could not provide enough school places and even now that they can, there are parents who want options on religious and other grounds. Private schools provide a haven for those children

who have not been admitted to the Government secondary schools. Moreover, private schools enable them to have their personal attention which is not easy to give in the larger public schools. Over the years, private schools have met the needs of quite a large number of children. These schools have produced people of outstanding calibre. For instance, Senator Forde is a product of a private secondary school. I recall when I was a lecturer and tutor at the College of Arts and Science, now the Cave Hill Campus of the University of the West Indies, one of my best students who had a scholarly mind and possessed application was a product of a private secondary school. Incidentally, he had attended the same high school that Senator Forde attended.

It is well-known that Barbadians are hungry and thirsty for knowledge and upward mobility. These private schools help students to achieve this ambition because they are given the motivation to move on.

Mr. President, I think it would be unfortunate if private schools which are run either by the Church or by those individuals who feel that they have a mission cease to exist. Such a person is Wilbert Callender of the Co-operative High School and I wish to congratulate him on the National Award which he has recently been given. He is a gentleman without fanfare or fuss. With hard work, he has inculcated in students the right values of honesty and obedience. He is the sort who has never lauded or trumpeted himself but has made a great contribution, not only to education but to sports.

He is a quiet, persevering individual who has a certain bearing and is well-respected among his fellow educators and, generally, in this country. He is firm in his discipline and in what he sees as acceptable.

The diversity of schools such as his provides a complementary structure. Thus, there will always be room for private schools such as his even though we have extremely good government secondary schools.

Therefore, I have the greatest pleasure in supporting this resolution.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy President.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Forde.

SENATOR Miss C. Y. FORDE: Thank you, Mr. Deputy President. I just want to add a few comments to those registered by Senator Symmonds to indicate that I agree very much with her that parents should have preferences. We are aware that there are 11 private secondary schools in Barbados in which, over the years, the Government has taken on the responsibility of paying salaries of teachers, I cannot give you the specific

number offhand but the teachers who assist at that level. I think it is that they have to have as many as 150 and then the Government pays 1 for every 30. But I do not want those figures to be quoted from the point of view that they may not be accurate.

I also want to add that, in the reform that we are doing in the Ministry, the principals of the private secondary schools are also invited to give their suggestions, their opinions, their recommendations. They are pulled into the discussions because they are a very integral part of the educational system in Barbados and, of course, they should be pulled into our confidence and relied on to give us their suggestions and pull in that trust that is necessary, if we want education to continue.

I also want to make mention of the students who scored under 30% in the 11+ examination. Those students from primary schools in Barbados who scored under 30% were tested and profiles were prepared on all those who have gone into whether it be a public secondary school or a private secondary school. Those profiles have been delivered so that teachers in the private and secondary schools would be able to determine what level those students are at. Principals were called in to discuss the kinds of programmes that should be introduced to accommodate the needs of those children having found out the stages that they have reached.

I also want to make mention, Sir, of another area to do with the payment of school fees. Earlier this year, we put together an aspect of the policy for those students attending the private secondary schools who meet difficulties with their payments for whom, as long as they are recommended by the School Attendance Officers and the Guidance Counsellors so that we can ensure that there is a need for such, the full bursary is accommodated by the Ministry of Education. It used to be \$125. Now those students who are meeting those tremendous difficulties, if the school fees are \$350 per term, that is accommodated, as long as the information is drawn to our attention, even if it comes through me. I make the recommendation for the School Attendance Officer to visit and, as long as that is looked after, that child is accommodated in this particular aspect.

I also want to say that I agree that, in some of those private secondary schools, the quality and standard of education is very high. I think that those schools should be accommodated and the Co-operative High School in this particular request should be accommodated in this resolution so that they can have the lease in order that other Barbadians can continue to benefit from the quality education that will be delivered to the students who attend the school.

Without adding anymore and repeating what others have said, I wish to lend my support to this particular resolution.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Rickinson.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Thank you, Mr. Deputy President. I rise to support wholeheartedly the resolution to approve the lease to the Co-operative High School Management.

I do not really want to repeat quite what has been said regarding the sterling work that has been done in education, not only by Government but also by some of these private schools. But what I should like to make a note of is that I am very glad – in keeping with the last Senator who spoke – that persons with under 30% had their profiles prepared and sent to the schools so that they could be evaluated.
12.05 p.m.

I would also like to call, in addition to this, for urgently appointing nurses to schools, primary schools and groups of secondary schools, so that they can assess the children and pick up very early any hearing problems, any sight problems or any other health problems that affect the performance of the children. We have really reached the stage in our development when it will pay us to appoint nurses who also have psychiatric nursing training and public health nursing training, to appoint for example one nurse, since we do not have a lot of money, to service perhaps, three schools or four schools until we can increase the number of nurses. This will also pick up some of the disabilities affecting the learning of our children.

It is my view, Mr. Deputy President, that anybody can learn once time is taken out to teach them. They might take a little more time than others but all of us are not very early learners. Some of us are very slow learners and some of us tend to mature faster than others. I will leave a bit more of this to the Education Act because I do not want to overstep my bounds, Mr. Deputy President, and I therefore thank you.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 4 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT
GRAZETTES ROAD, ST. MICHAEL

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy President, approval of the Honourable Senate is being sought for the acquisition of land consisting of some 94.6 square metres at Grazettes in St. Michael for the

purpose of road improvement. The property in question, Sir, is adjacent to what is known as the Woodbridge Circle which is at the junction of Grazettes Road and Fairfield Road and as a matter of fact is being utilised for the purpose of the construction of that small roundabout in the area. If one is approaching from the Grazettes Road the property in question is to the left of that junction.

The area represents part of the frontage of the property which is bounded by both Fairfield Road and Grazettes Road. A strip of frontage from both sides was utilised in that road improvement work. In order therefore for the estate of Jeduthan Hope to be compensated for that property which was used in the improvement to the area, it is necessary for the land to be acquired. The Senate's approval is therefore being sought for the acquisition of this property, some 94.6 square metres of land at Grazettes in St. Michael for the purpose of road improvement. I beg to move, Sir, that this Resolution do now pass.

SENATOR N. A. LYNCH: Mr. Deputy President, I rise to speak on this particular issue. As one who has traversed the area on more than one occasion, as a matter of fact I reside pretty close to this area, I have always questioned the wisdom and the prudence of putting a roundabout in that area in the first place. For many years, growing up as a boy, I used to run all around that area up there and if you are familiar with the area you will recognise that there is a quarry to the right of that area.

The thing is that from the beginning that parcel of land where this roundabout exists is a very small piece of land and I think that whoever decided in the first place to put a roundabout in that area was out of place. The reason is that I have always felt there was no need to have a roundabout at every corner and every junction in Barbados and some philosophy or some strange transport system has taken us down that path that we need to have a roundabout. Even if you widen the road in that area, and I want to caution the Minister of Public Works and Transport and whoever is doing it, the problem is that to the right of it is the quarry and there will never be enough room really plausibly to put a sensible roundabout. Even now as you navigate the roundabout you find that you are always on top of the area that has been created as a roundabout in the first place. I believe that is a junction in which we can revert to the old system of having a major road where one can have a right of way at one side and a giveaway on the other side. But to have a roundabout in a such a small area certainly is a problem.

The other thing is because of the quarry in that particular area. Anytime you come off the Grazettes Hill past where Grazettes Great House used to be and you come

down in that area, because of the area being so difficult to navigate, most people are propelled over to the other side of the road and that in essence in trying to navigate this roundabout. That roundabout is going to cause a serious accident before long. We always have to wait until there is loss of life in this country to make an exception or to change something. I am proposing, Sir, to the Minister and to the Government that what we do is that we look again at that. Even though we can give up the extra piece of land to widen it, we really need to look at whether or not there should be a roundabout placed in that area.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 5 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
SALE OF LAND SITUATE AT PRITCHARD HILL,
ST. PATRICKS, CHRIST CHURCH

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy President, this Resolution seeks the approval of the Senate for the disposal of 581.6 square metres of land at Pritchard Hill, Christ Church which forms part of what was formerly St. Patrick's Girls' School. That school, Sir, has now been relocated elsewhere and the area in question is now used by the Skills Training Programme. Also forming part of that overall quantity of land was a public convenience which had long been disused.
12.15 p.m.

The application had been made some time ago for the purchase of this land by Miss Eunice Murrell, who had indicated that prior to the acquisition in 1958 of the overall parcel, which was used for the construction of the St. Patrick's Girls' School, as I said, she had resided on the location and she was desirous of expanding her accommodation which is adjacent to the area in question.

It was, therefore, decided to make application for the subdivision of the larger area which was acquired in 1958 to accommodate the old school site and which is now used as a skills training centre – that area is now some 1 232 square metres – and to sell the area of 581.6 square metres to Miss Murrell for the purpose of expanding her residential accommodation. The purchase price, as has been identified by the Land Tax Department and agreed with Miss Murrell, is some \$9 400.

The approval of the Senate is being sought, under Section 5 of the Crown Lands (Vesting and Disposal) Act for this transaction, and I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

**ORDER NO. 6 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
LEASE TO HER EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-
GENERAL OF THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS
"SANDY POINT" AT BATH, ST. JOHN**

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy President, approval of the Senate is being sought for the lease of the property known as "Sandy Point" at Bath, St. John to Her Excellency the Governor-General.

The property in question consists of a house on an area of over 5 000 square feet of land, formally leased to the late Right Honourable E. W. Barrow and subsequently to Lesley Barrow-Whatley. Her Excellency made the request for consideration of the lease of the property in 1994 and the Cabinet granted approval, subject to parliamentary approval, in mid-1994.

The Resolution before us now seeks parliamentary approval for the granting of this lease to Her Excellency for rental at the rate of \$500 per month. The lessee would

be responsible for the internal repairs and the payment of utility charges and the upkeep of the dwelling house and grounds in a suitable condition, and the lessor, the Government of Barbados, would be responsible for structural repairs to the house, all necessary internal and external decoration and the payment of insurance premiums.

I beg to move, Sir, that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Honourable Senate do now adjourn *sine die*.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to, and Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly.
12.20 p.m.

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SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

DAVIS, Senator Mrs. V. J.
FARLEY, Senator the Hon. R. R.
FORDE, Senator Miss C. Y.
LAURIE, Senator C. K.
LYNCH, Senator N. A.
MASCOLL, Senator C. A.
RICKINSON, Senator Mrs. P. E.
SYMMONDS, Senator Miss O. P.